

To: The Rockton Township Board
From: Dean G. Mohring Township Trustee
Subject: Area Development and Zoning

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



300586

I am concerned with what is going on in Winnebago County and nearby towns.

Development is inevitable for towns to survive and if controlled, is a good thing. Too rapid and unplanned development causes immense strain on the infrastructure such as roads and utilities, and upon our schools. We as current residents of the Rockton Township should have a say in how the development proceeds and not just the developers or the Village of Rockton. One Village Trustee at their last board meeting said that township residents were interfering with the annexation process for the Cannell/Puri development on Prairie Rd. Shouldn't all people that will be affected have a voice in this process? The Village President said that they would hold a public hearing after they withdrew the Petition that was improperly acted upon at the previous meeting. No such meeting has been scheduled. Several County Board members have said that since Cannell/Puri are working with the Village on the annexation agreement, they will support the application. There is no incentive for Cannell/Puri and the Village supporters for this project to do anything until after the County board meeting.

The new Special Use Zoning Option or PCD, disallows any objector status by the townships and even though the ZBA has rejected the Cannell/Puri development it will only require a simple majority at the County Board meeting.

It is of interest to note that Rockton, Roscoe, Caledonia, Loves Park and Rochelle have the same law firm representing them. Machesney Park apparently wants to hire them as well. Loves Park is studying ways to fund the land grab East of I-90 called the East Side Connection. The adjacent landowners will be expected to fund this road by taxation of their property for the next thirty years. This charge is reported to be from \$319 to \$11,181 per Acre. Many land owners will be forced to sell.

Note also that the law firm is in the development business according to the "Rock River Times". Buckley Partners LLC, Buckley Holdings, The Principal Group LLC, Buckley Title and Buckley Construction. When this law firm sits in on closed meetings regarding acquisitions, or new business inquiries, they have inside information of great value to their development businesses. This appears to be a clear conflict of interest. How can they resolve border disputes when they represent both sides?

According to the "Rock River Times" July 13-19, 2005 issue, the Buckley businesses contributed \$8,000 in cash to Scott Christianson, (head of the County Board)

campaign. How many other county board members received campaign contributions from those they are supposed to regulate? How can the County Board be impartial when they are indebted to the developers, law firms and banks?

Copies of three articles from the "Rock River Times are attached.